

Environmental Justice **Fact Sheet--*Small Grants***

Purpose

The Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) established the EJ Small Grants Program in fiscal year (FY) 1994. The purpose of the Small Grants Program is to assist community-based/grassroots organizations and tribal governments that are working on local solutions to local environmental problems.

Accomplishments

In **FY 1994**, the pilot program started with only \$500,000 and a limit of \$10,000 per award. Each region received \$50,000 and funded a total of 61 projects.

In **1995**, with additional funds provided by Congress, OEJ increased its small grants program budget to \$3,000,000 and increased individual award amounts up to \$20,000 each. The Agency awarded grants to more than 170 recipients.

In **1996**, OEJ awarded \$2,800,000 to 152 grant recipients from across the country.

In **1997**, OEJ awarded 139 grants totaling \$2,700,000.

In **1998**, OEJ awarded 134 grants totaling \$2,500,000.

In **1999**, OEJ awarded 95 grants totaling \$1,490,000.

In **2000**, OEJ awarded 61 grants totaling

\$899,000.

In **FY 2001**, OEJ awarded \$1,300,000 to 88 recipients.

A list of the grants and a brief description can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/>

In **2002**, the program continued to focus on awards to community-based organizations (i.e., grassroots groups, churches, or other nonprofit organizations) and federally recognized tribal governments. A total of \$1,500,000 is available for awards. The awards will be complete by September 2002.

In **2003**, the program will have \$1,500,000 available and will continue to focus on the same organizations.

The Request for Applications (RFA) will be available November 1, 2002, with an end date of March 3, 2003. The RFA is posted on the Internet and is mailed out by the regional offices.

Publications

The Environmental Justice Small Grants, **“Emerging Tools for Local Problem-Solving”** is a 2-volume compilation of information about the hundreds of grants that have been awarded through the EPA Environmental Justice Small Grants Program. It covers grants awarded from the beginning of the Small Grant program in 1994 through 2001.

For More Information

If you would like more information about the EJ Small Grants Program, please call the Office of Environmental Justice's 24-hour hotline (1-800-962-6215).

The EPA's national Office of Environmental Justice coordinates the small grants program. However, each of the regions has an Environmental Justice (EJ) Coordinator and *EJ Grant Coordinator* who are your primary contacts for information pertaining to the EJ Small Grants Program.

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**CALL 1-800-962-6215 FOR GENERAL
INFORMATION. ASK FOR THE SMALL
GRANTS MANAGER.**